

*John Bouverie* THE 1691

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# Mournful Widow,

OR,

A full and true RELATION

OF THE

APARITION

IN

# Baldwin<sup>s</sup> Garden

BEING

An Account of the Walking-Spirit

OF

Mr. THOMAS COOKE,

Sometime

A Stone-Cutter in Baldwin's-Gardens, Deceased.

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As it was taken from the *Widow* of the said Mr. Cooke; and several other Persons (some of which were Divines of the Church of *England*) that were Eye and Ear-Witnesses of the prodigious Appearances, and Actions of the Deceased Mr. Cook.

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Published at the Request of some Relations, and particular Friends; to prevent, if possible, the false Reports, that have been, or may be industriously spread by Ignorant or Prejudiced Persons.

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*Licensed and Entered according to Order.*

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# *The Mournful Widow : Or, a Full and True Relation of the Aparition in Baldwin's Gardens.*

**I**T has been the opinion of some people, as well Divines as others, that there are no such things as Spirits, Apparitions, Dæmons Visible and the like; but that all the affrightments of Men and Women proceeding from the supposed sight of the aforesaid Objects, are no more or other than the pure effects of prejudic'd fancy, weakness of Heart, &c. It is the design therefore of this paper, to convince the incredulity of these Atheistically principled persons, (as I may justly call them) (since they are opposite to express Scripture, and try'd Experience) by an instance of this nature which is so far from being feigned or false, that there can be some scores of eye and ear-witnesses to be produc'd, who will upon any occasion attest the reality of this subsequent Relation, and all this too not to be enquired after, or left in doubt by distance of place, or other difficulties, since the Circumstances and thing it self may be prov'd in this very City; and though the modest gravity, and indeed, sorrow of the Wife and Relations of the Deceased (whom we will presently name) has put a stop to any particular publication of the ensuing passages, yet since she has by malicious Tongues been censur'd as contributing, if not causing the Melancholy Dissatisfactions of her Husband aforesaid, she cannot be displeased in hearing her own Vindication, and exposing the plain matter of fact according to the truth declared by several of her own Family, as well as confirm'd by her sorrowful self: Which is as followeth. *Thomas Cook* by Trade a Stone-cutter, living between *Grays-Inn-Lane* and *Leather-Lane*, had lived with his Wife *Elizabeth Cooke* for many years, during which time he has (being in himself of a surly nature) many bickering proceed



ing chiefly from his ill Husbandry, he indeed working per-  
sonally, but would upon the receipt of his Money, be  
little or no care of his Family; So that his two Children  
Wife had wholly their own Subsistence from the Wives  
Industry, who was by Trade a Body's-Maker, while he would  
be drinking out his daily gettings, and indeed, not without  
shrewd Suspicion of keeping bad Women company: How-  
ever, nothing of such moment (as can be possibly gather'd from  
any of his Family) in the whole time they lived together, hap-  
pened, as to make any Impression or Dissatisfaction more than  
ordinary; indeed he had by his lavish Expences, brought  
himself to such Inconveniencies that occasioned him during  
the whole term of their living together, to be Arrested three  
times; and he as often experienced the pious fondness of his  
Wife, in being every time reliev'd and ransom'd by her pecu-  
liar Charge and Industry: So that the Malicious and base Sca-  
ndals rais'd by ignorant People, or prejudic'd Heads, are whol-  
ly confuted and evinc'd, some of which pretend that Jealousy  
caused his Melancholy, and that he should suspect the fidelity  
of his good Wife, whose Honesty and Virtue has been in  
her Neighbourhood, both approv'd and applauded; others im-  
pute the disturbance of his Spirit, to his having left several  
Sums of Money hid and conceal'd; but this from the very  
meanest of his Circumstances in the World is invalid; and to  
speak truth, neither his Wife, nor any of his Family can  
give the least probable reason for this Disturbance he put  
too, except it be, that his Heart being so hardened by the Al-  
lurements, Instigation and Temptation of the Devil, that  
though on his sick Bed, (which most commonly renders the  
Consciences and Actions of evil-Livers in visible and mournful  
Characters) he could not heartily set himself to such a sincere  
Sorrow, Grief and Repentance for his Sins, as was requisite;  
and that the Subtlety of the Devil made them so black and nu-  
merous before him, that he wholly despaired of God Almighty's  
infinite Mercy, and the effectual Mediation and Merits of  
his only Son our most Blessed Saviour, and so left the World



in a sort of Grudging and Grief, as may very  
 prov'd from several Expressions that dropt from  
 his Sickness, especially towards the latter end: For his good  
 Wife during his Sickness, (which lasted a whole week  
 no more, and began with a sort of troublesome Hickup,)  
 his good Wife I say, being willing and ready to take care for  
 the future wellfare of his Soul, as well as for the present ease  
 and amendment of his Body; would frequently kneel down  
 and pray heartily by him, at some of which times, he would  
 shew himself very devout, and bear a part in her pious Eja-  
 culations, as once he cry'd out to her after she had been zea-  
 lously praying: Ah! Dear Wife, Doubtless the good and great  
 God will have respect to the fervent Sincerity of thy Prayers;  
 and I and my Family shall fare the better for them, at ano-  
 ther time he was wholly desperate, and in a great agony Ex-  
 claimed: Ah! tis too late, too late, you and I my Dear,  
 you and I have a greater Account than this to reckon for, thus  
 would he vary, and run between Hope and Despair; and to  
 the last, exprest himself as Doubtful and Fearful, that he  
 should not obtain God Almighty's Mercy and Forgiveness of  
 his Sins, and in that Condition dy'd about the sixth or seventh  
 day after his first Ill-ness: And now the Disconsolate Widow  
 having Discharg'd a good Conscience in a strict care, and Du-  
 tyful Attendance of her Husband living, was thinking of a  
 modest and Decent Disposal of his Corps now Dead, and ac-  
 cordingly had him Interred with all the Circumstances usual  
 and proper; but to her great Amazement, was scarce well re-  
 turn'd from his Buryal to her own House, when there was  
 heard a great clattering noise as the falling of Pewter or Shelves,  
 so that the Widow thinking the Wine-Vessel and other things  
 by the carelessness of the Maid was fallen down, was just upon  
 chiding, till upon a Search, they found all things in their  
 right order, to their great Astonishment: The fourth night af-  
 ter his Burial about Midnight, they heard a great tumbling  
 of Stones, and pecking as if some body had been at work in  
 the Shop; But that which made the Widow believe it, a  
 A 3 Demon



Dæmon or Spirit was the insensible moving a Stone from one place to another, as he us'd often when alive, also she would hear the very noise of cutting of Stones under her Bed, and sometimes would perceive the Bed while she was lying in it, hoisted up in a strange manner. About a week after his Buryal, the Maid who lay in a little Room by her Mistress, perceiv'd her Feet of a sudden to be press'd down, as if some heavy burthen had been thrown down upon her, and the next Morning her Feet were seen very sore, swell'd, and Black, and herself extreamly Affrighted.

Another time, the Nurse, that sat up with the Widow, went into the little Room to wash her Hands, the Maid being in Bed, who lay as in a Trance, her Eyes being open, and fixt upon one place, all in a Sweat, her Hair standing up, at which the Nurse in a great Fright left the Room, and shutting the Door, immediately heard something Jump, as it were, heavily from the Feet of the Maids Bed, and walk along the Room; then the Nurse took Heart, and went to the Door and harkned, and she perceiv'd something move up to the Door, and lean'd it self in a posture of hearkning too. By this time the Maid was come to her self, and call'd to the Nurse, who after some time came, to whom she told what Misery she had suffer'd; and Ask'd, *If she had not heard a sad Groaning all the Night?* As also, *That her Master came so near her, that her Breath was almost stopt.* Before Nurse could get back, it was got under the Widows Bed; who calling for her Prayer-Book, and recommending her self to the Great Gods Protection, she boldly call'd out, in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, *What art Thou that thus dost trouble me? And what wouldst Thou have?* whereupon it flung open the Curtains furiously, and giving a great Stamp, went down into the Shop, and was there heard Pecking, as when Alive on the Stones. Five or Six Gentlemen being desirous to be satisfied of the truth and meaning of this Apparition; some being of Opinion, there was no such thing; coming thither merrily together, one of them belonging to Gray's-Inn, of a sudden



sudden Crys out, in a Fright, *Here he is ;* at which the other  
 smiling, as if he had Jeasted on purpose to scare them, he se-  
 riously told them, and pointed to him, drawing the Curtains  
 of the Bed, which they all heard, but saw not. He also  
 said, He was in Black Cloaths, with a Musling-Neckcloth tied  
 with a Black Ribbon, and was at the Beds-feet, and inclining  
 to a posture of Kneeling ; but as soon as the Gentleman arose  
 from his Seat, it vanished, and began its usual Frolick of  
 pecking Stones. Sometimes while the Nurse and the Widow  
 have lain together, it has lifted up the Bed, so that they have  
 been in danger of falling out. One time in his own real shape  
 appear'd to a Stone-Cutter, his old Acquaintance, and with  
 abundance of Threats and Menaces, charg'd him to repay the  
 sixteen Shillings he had receiv'd of his Wife for his Grave-  
 stone. Another time, about Twelve of the Clock at Night,  
 he appear'd to the Watch who were going by his House. A-  
 nother time, the Widow and her Family sitting up till near  
 One of the Clock, and frequently falling to Prayers, of a  
 sudden they perceiv'd the Candle burn Blew, and presently  
 heard a great Knocking, the usual warning that he gives of  
 his Approach, and being worn out with tedious Watching, she  
 fell into a gentle Slumber, when the Young Woman that lay  
 with her fell a Crying, *Oh Mistress, your Pillow is on Fire ;* at  
 which she wak'd, and felt one side of her Head very sore, as  
 if it had been scorch'd or bruised ; and looking out on the  
 floor by her *Mistresses* side, *She saw a Fire rising up like a Pil-  
 lar, and more than the compass of a Peck ;* then the Widow  
 cry'd out, *Avoid Satan, my Trust is in God ;* and strait the Fire  
 went to the other side of the Bed and vanish'd ; and presently  
 after, they could see the full proportion of the Deceased in  
 his Crape-Burial-Dress, and crossing the Room, disappear'd.  
 Two Young Men that lie in the same House, *Saw one Night  
 the full shape and proportion of a Man lying all along by their Bed  
 side, and falling Zealously to their Prayers, he starts up, and with  
 an Angry Frown leaves them.* Another time, the same Two  
 Young Men going out late one Night, it being very Dark,  
 they



they were scarce got out of the Gate; But a great Light came  
 a sudden, and moving towards them, they could perceive some  
 as it were a Dog coming up to them; and presently it took some  
 monstrous Shape, which they could not distinguish, and presently  
 whirling by them it vanishd, and left them in great Terrour and  
 Darkness again. Three Young Women sitting up with the  
 Widow, about Eleven of the Clock there was a great Blow  
 given in the little Room, where the Maid us'd to lie, and  
 Noise as of some Body walking too and fro, and then they  
 all counted several distinct Knocks, to the Number of Twenty.  
 One of the Women that sat nigh that Room Door, being  
 Curious to Peep, was thrown by an insensible force out of  
 her Chair; and it seem'd to her, as if it had been some strong  
 Blast of Wind. At Seven of the Clock, by the same invisible  
 force, the same Young Woman was terribly shaken in  
 her Chair. Last Sunday Night Two other Watchmen coming  
 along by the House, called at the Hole in the Wall for  
 Drink, and seeing a Man stand hard by, went up to him  
 and Asking who he was, he staid disappear'd. These and  
 many other prodigious Disturbances of the like nature do almost  
 happen every Day and Night in the House of the said  
 Cook, lately Deceased, to the wonderful Astonishment of all  
 that hear it, and Terrour of those poor Wretches that have  
 seen and felt many of them. And because the Truth of every  
 Circumstance here related may be justly Vindicated, any  
 Person that desires farther satisfaction, may receive it fully  
 from the Mouths of Hundreds in Baldwin's Gardens, or from  
 the Widow of the said Cook, who with her whole Family  
 have sadly Experimented the Reality of this Relation.

F I N I S.